

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 06972 061312Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 HEW-04 INT-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FRB-03
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 DOE-15 SOE-02 HA-05 IO-13 AID-05 /134 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6972

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB
SUBJECT: LABOR UNREST AND THE ASSEMBLY

REF: (A) LIMA 6711, (B) LIMA 6285

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THE GOP FINALLY RESOLVED THE TEACHER STRIKE (REF A), THE LABOR SITUATION IN PERU REMAINS TROUBLED AS OTHER STRIKES CONTINUE AND AS LEFTIST UNION LEADERS AND POLITICIANS NOW PLAN TO USE THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AS A SOUNDING BOARD FOR GRIEVANCES AND AS ANOTHER POINT OF PRESSURE ON THE BELEAGUERED GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. MINISTRY OF HEALTH: THE STRIKE OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH WORKERS (REF B) CONTINUES, ALTHOUGH LABOR OBSERVERS THINK THAT A SOLUTION TO THE WORKERS' DEMANDS FOR WAGE INCREASES WILL BE NEGOTIATED SOON. THE STRIKE, WHICH HAS LIMITED SEVERELY THE SERVICES AVAILABLE IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS, ORIGINATED BASICALLY FROM ECONOMIC CAUSES.

2. MINEWORKERS: THE FEDERATION OF MINE AND METALWORKERS UNDER ASSEMBLY DELEGATE VICTOR CUADROS (UDP) ANNOUNCED AN INDEFINITE STRIKE FOR AUGUST 4. THE MINISTER OF LABOR HAS DECLARED THE STRIKE "IMPROCEDENTE" (I.E., ISSUED AN ORDER THAT IT SHOULD
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PAGE 02 LIMA 06972 061312Z

NOT TAKE PLACE). THE MINEWORKERS HAVE PRESENTED A SERIES OF DEMANDS FOR GENERAL WAGE HIKE, AND FOR A SOLUTION TO THE LONGSTANDING PROBLEM OF FIRED WORKERS (SOME OF WHOM FROM CENTRO-MIN ARE NOW ON A HUNGER STRIKE). AN EARLY MORNING SURVEY AUGUST 4 REVEALED THE FOLLOWING: WORKERS AT SOUTHERN PERU COPPER CORPORATION'S REFINERY AT ILO (ABOUT 1400) AND ITS MINE AT TOQUEPALA (ABOUT 2,600) ARE ON STRIKE, OFFICE EMPLOYEES ARE

ON THE JOB, AND SPCC'S OPEN PIT MINE AT CUAJONE IS OPERATING NORMALLY; MINERO PERU'S REFINERY AT ILO IS OPERATING NORMALLY; CENTROMIN HAS A PARTIAL STRIKE OF METALWORKERS AT THE LA OROYA SMELTER (ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF THE 4,500 MAN WORK FORCE ARE ABSENT) BUT THE REMAINING MINING OPERATIONS OF CENTROMIN ARE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY. IN THE STATE OWNED IRON WORKS OF HIERRO PERU (FORMERLY MARCONA) IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ICA, THE WORKERS ARE ON STRIKE BUT NOT RPT NOT THE EMPLOYEES.

3. BANKS: BANK WORKERS HAVE ENGAGED IN A SERIES OF WORK STOPPAGES DURING THE PAST WEEK, SEEKING PAY RAISES AND THE REPLACEMENT OF 71 FIRED WORKERS. THEY HAVE ALSO BEEN STAGING SMALL DEMONSTRATIONS DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS UNDER THE SLOGAN "SUTEP HAS SHOWN THE WAY."

4. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND INFORMALLY THAT CGTP IS CONSIDERING CALLING ANOTHER GENERAL STRIKE. HOWEVER, AN ALTERNATIVE STRATEGY OF CALLING INDEFINITE STRIKES SECTOR BY SECTOR IS ALSO BEING STUDIED. BOTH PLANS OF COURSE AIM AT USING THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY FOR PUBLICITY. WE EXPECT THE MAJOR CAUSE WILL BE THAT OF REHIRING THE MORE THAN 2,000 WORKERS FIRED DURING THE PAST YEAR AS A RESULT OF OTHER STRIKES. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ PRIVATELY HAS SUPPORTED THE REHIRING OF WORKERS, HE HAS MET STRONG OPPOSITION AMONG THE MILITARY IN HIS CABINET. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MINISTER OF LABOR GARCIA CALDERON HAS ONCE MORE THREATENED TO RESIGN SHOULD THE GOP
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LIMA 06972 061312Z

ORDER THE REPOSITIONING OF FIRED WORKERS. THE GOP'S LABOR TROUBLES APPEAR FAR FROM OVER.
SHLAUDEMAM

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Message Attributes

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